

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 A-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 OES-03

FS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12 SY-05 AID-05 OMB-01 OC-05 CCO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7446

NASA HQ WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NASA, MA, US

SUBJECT: CHARGE CONVOKED BY PRESIDENT'S CHIEF OF CABINET

REF: TANANARIVE 1225

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA'S CHIEF OF CABINET CALLED CHARGE AT 5:00 P.M. AND REQUESTED THAT CHARGE SEE HIM. CHIEF OF CABINET SHOWED NO INTEREST IN DISCUSSING FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS TO KEEP STATION OPEN. GOMR AGREED TO COOPERATIVE IN CLOSING OF STATION. US NASA PERSONNEL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER STATION TOMORROW MORNING. END SUMMARY.

1. CHEF DE CABINET TO PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA, GEORGES SOLOFSON, INDICATED UPON ARRIVAL OF CHARGE AT 5:15 JULY 17 THAT PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO REVIEW AIDE MEMOIRE LEFT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER JULY 14. HE BEGAN BY SAYING THAT GOMR APPRECIATED POINTS MADE IN AIDE MEMOIRE CONCERNING US-MALAGASY RELATIONS AND WANTED TO CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE MALAGASY READY TO BE COOPERATIVE. CHARGE NOTED AT THIS POINT THAT HE HAD STILL NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONSE TO GOMR NOTE OF JULY 16
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BUT ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING NEW ON GOMR SIDE IN TERMS OF OVERALL SITUATION. CHARGE SAID THAT FROM U.S. POINT OF VIEW IT WAS MALAGASY SIDE THAT HAD CLOSED STATION. SOLOFSON RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AND SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY

COUNCIL HAD MADE ITS DECISION. HE SAID PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO ARRANGE FOR PAYMENT OF EMPLOYEES AND TO PERMIT THEM TO REMOVE THEIR PERSONAL EFFECTS. CHARGE ASKED IF THIS MEANT BOTH U.S. AND MALAGASY EMPLOYEES AND HE RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY. SOLOFSON THEN HANDED CHARGE EXTRA COPY OF TRANSLATION OF CHARGE'S AIDE MEMOIRE OF JULY 14 (REFTEL) WHICH HE SAID HE WANTED TO REVIEW POINT BY POINT.

2. IN POINTS 1 AND 2 (REFTEL) ON DEPARTURE OF EMPLOYEES, SOLOFSON ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS. CHARGE RESPONDED NOT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE. SOLOFSON SAID TO LET HIM KNOW IF THERE WAS ANY DIFFICULTY.

3. SOLOFSON EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PLAN TO KEEP AS MANY MALAGASY EMPLOYED AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. HE THEN ASKED IF NASA COULD BEGIN PAYING EMPLOYEES TOMORROW. CHARGE SAID THAT THIS WOULD REQUIRE SEVERAL DAYS OF PREPARATION SINCE PAYROLL IS PREPARED BY IBM OFFICE IN TOWN AND RECORDS WOULD HAVE TO BE FORWARDED TO THEM. SOLOFSON INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD THIS BUT HOPED THAT WE COULD BEGIN PROCESSING JULY 18.

4. SOLOFSON SAID US GOVERNMENT WAS OF COURSE FREE TO TAKE WHATEVER EQUIPMENT IT NEEDED BUT GOMR WAS INTERESTED IN WHAT TYPE OF EQUIPMENT WOULD BE LEFT. CHARGE SAID HE HAD STILL NOT RECIEVED INSTRUCTIONS.

5. SOLOFSON SKIPPED DOWN TO QUESTION OF SECURITY (PARA 6 REFTEL) AND SAID THAT THAT HAD ALL BEEN TAKEN CARE OF. CHARGE NOTED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY POLICE NEAR HIS HOME AND SOLOFSON REPLIED THAT HE HIMSELF HAD SPOKEN TO GENDARMERIE TODAY AND SAID THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE GOTTEN ALL THEIR INSTRUCTIONS YET.

6. CHARGE ASKED IF POWER PLANT OPERATION WAS POSING ANY PROBLEMS SINCE HE BELIEVED THAT MALAGASY EMPLOYEES HAD GONE TO THE STATION FOR THIS PURPOSE. SOLOFSON REPLIED HAT THIS HAD BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.

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7. CHARGE THEN ASKED WHETHER US NASA EMPLOYEES COULD BEGIN INVENTORY AND OTHER PREPARATIONS ON JULY 18 ALSO. SOLOFSON REPLIED THAT THIS MIGHT BE UNDERTAKING TOO MURZ AT ONE TIME SINCE JUDICIAL POLICE WERE TO ADMINISTRATIVELY CONTROL MATERIAL LEAVING STATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT INVENTORY BEGIN ON JULY 21.

8. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S QUESTION SOLOFSON SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO JUDICIAL POLICE, GENDARMES WOULD REMAIN AT STATION DURING CLOSING OPERATIONS. HE SAID IT WAS THEIR PREFERENCE NOT TO HAVE JUDICIAL POLICE WORK OVER WEEKENDS. SOLOFSON SAID THAT AMERICAN AND MALAGASY EMPLOYEES REMOVING EFFECTS AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE STATION WOULD BE ASKED TO SIGN

DOCUMENTS TO THAT EFFECT. SOLOFSON ALSO REQUESTED THAT SPECIFIC TIME FOR ENTRY AT STATION BE SET FOR JULY 18. HE INDICATED THAT MALAGASY EMPLOYEES HAD APPROACHED GOMR AND INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD BE READY AT 8:00 A.M. JULY 18. CHARGE AGREED TO BEGIN ENTRY INTO STATION AT 10:00 A.M.

9. SOLOFSON THEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING CHARGE COULD SAY CONCERNING \$100,000 PER YEAR TO MADAGASCAR BASED ON FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENT TO CHARGE YESTERDAY OR DAY BEFORE. CHARGE SAID CONVERSATION WAS ON JULY 14 AND THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO COMPLETE ANSWER ON THIS QUESTION ALTHOUGH HE HAD REPORTED SAME BUT CHARGE'S GOVERNMENT WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION. SOLOFSON SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WAS ONLY ORAL AGREEMENT BASED ON NEGOTIATIONS FROM 1973 ON BUT WANTED TO KNOW IF US GOVERNMENT COULD PAY THIS AMOUNT. CHARGE THEN ASKED IF HE WAS SPEAKING OF PAST OR FUTURE, THAT IS, WAS HE SUGGESTING A REOPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID NO, HE WAS SIMPLY ASKING IF THIS IS POSSIBLE SINCE 1973 AND WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE. SOLOFSON CLOSED BY REPEATING HIS OPENING STATEMENTS ON CONTINUED US-MALAGASY COOPERATION WITH WHICH CHARGE AGREED. SOLOFSON INDICATED HE PROBABLY WOULD BE KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH CHARGE ON DETAILS OF STATION CLOSURE AND SHORTLY AFTER CHARGE RETURNED TO EMBASSY SOLOFSON CALLED TO VERIFY 10:00 A.M. ENTRY INTO STATION AS BEING OKAY.

10. EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NOT ALL POINTS COVERED ON STATION CLOSURE SUCH AS CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS, IT APPEARS THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT. CONCILIATORY TONE OF GOMR
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SINCE SECOND MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON JULY 14 NO APPEARS MORE LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN FUNCTION OF THEIR FEAR OF A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS RATHER THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
ELFERS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CLOSING OF OFFICES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLICIES, TRACKING STATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TANANA01259
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750248-0486
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507103/baaaadzt.tel
Line Count: 147
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971015
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, MA, US, NASA, PFOR
To: STATE
NASA HQ
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006